are examined from the point of view of eligibility of subsidy on a case to case basis within the limits of the budget.

The existing guidelines provide for reimbursement upto 75% of the cost of protective works, 35% of cost of sand stowing and 50% of the cost of construction of roads, while the balance cost has to be borne by the concerned coal company and in some cases of road construction by the concerned State Governemnt as well.

(c) For the year 1996-97 the following budget provision alongwith anticipated expenditure is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

		Budget provision	Anticipated expenditure
1.	Conservation including stowing	50.00	50.00
2.	Development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas	50.00	50.00

Pact on Coal signed between India and U.K.

1499. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.K. signed a pact on coal recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits India is likely to get out of the pact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding between Govt. of India and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was signed on 11th Jan., 1997 for launching an Indo-British Coal Forum. The broad objective of launching the coal forum is to broaden the scope of cooperation between coal related industries of the two countries through the creation of a productive partnership for peaceful purposes and for mutual benefit.

(c) India is likely to be benefited from cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding as given below:

(i) Meeting of various forms, such as those of experts, the discuss and exchange information on relevant coal related project.

(ii) Sharing information on each other's plans, capabilities and needs;

(iii) Indentifying suitable mining and related projects for cooperation;

(iv) Indentifying and exploring ways of introducing appropriate technology and efficient management practice into Indian coal/lignite mining and related industries;

(v) Examining and identifying suitable methods of financing;

(vi) Exploring the possibilites of the industries of the two countries working together in third countries; and

(vii) Cooperating in the field of skills development and training;

(viii) Other forms of cooperative activities as may be mutually agreed.

Allocation of Coal Mines lease to Private Sector

1500. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have clearly defined for acquiring mining lease of coal mining operation to private sector;

(b) the number of domestic and foreign companies who have so far been allocated coal blocks and whether terms and conditions have been specified to them; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The detailed